

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 00651 182304Z
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 /014 W
-----190703Z 086342 /13
R 182223Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9754
INFO AMCONSUL HERMOSILLO VIA POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 0651

PASS USDOC WASHDC

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, ECEM, MX
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: GUANOMEX

REF: (A) MEXICO 1190; (B) MEXICO A-269; (C) STATE A-720

1. THE LOPEZ PORTILLO ADMINISTRATION'S NEW TEAM AT GUANOMEX, THE MAJOR PARASTATAL FERTILIZER COMPANY, IS BUSY LEARNING ITS JOB AND CONTINUING CURRENT PROJECTS. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED ON LIC. JOSE ESTRADA, NEW MANAGER OF DEVELOPMENT, TO LEARN CURRENT STATUS OF MAJOR EXPANSION PROJECTS AND INTEGRATION WITH OTHER FERTILIZER COMPANIES.

2. CURRENT PROGRAMS ARE PROGRESSING SATISFACTORILY. CONSTRUCTION OF THE WORLD BANK-FINANCED UREA PLANT IN SALAMANCA IS 54 PERCENT COMPLETE AND THE PARATHION FACILITY 25 PERCENT, AND BOTH APPEAR TO BE PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE.

3. GUANOMEX PLANNING GROUP IS TRAVELLING TO GUAYMAS IN LATE JANUARY SO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PHOSPHORIC ACID COMPLEX CAN BE EXPECTED IN NEAR FUTURE. ESTRADA SAID CALL FOR BIDS (DELAYED SEVERAL MONTHS DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES) MAY BE ISSUED IN 45 DAYS. HE UNDERLINED COMPLEXITY OF
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PROJECT REQUIRING COOPERATION WITH PORT AUTHORITIES, COMPANIA MEXICANA DEL COBRE, ETC., AS WELL AS ITS IMPORTANCE TO MEXICO'S FERTILIZER NEEDS.

4. PARASTATAL FERTILIZER CONSORTIUM PROFERSA APPEARS TO BE VICTIM OF ADMINISTRATIVE RESHUFFLING. MAJOR PARTNER, FFM (FERTILIZANTES FORSFATADOS MEXICANOS), WILL BE

ABSORBED BY GUANOMEX, AND THE OTHER 5 PARTICIPATING COMPANIES
PLACED UNDER GUANOMEX PLANNING AND PRODUCTION CONTROL.

5. IN JANUARY 14 PRESS CONFERENCE, NEW GUANOMEX DIRECTOR
DAVID GUSTAVO GUTIERREZ ANNOUNCED THAT MEXICO SHOULD BE
SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FERTILIZERS BY 1979, MAINLY DUE TO
EXPLOITATION OF THE BAJA CALIFORNIA PHOSPHATE
DEPOSITS.

6. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PRESENTED TO INTERNATIONAL
SUPERPHOSPHATE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION MEETING,
1976 IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK WERE 1,057,000 MT BY FFM
AND 103,000 MT BY GUANOMEX; 1977 IMPORTS ARE PROJECTED AT
1,370,000 MT AND 113,000 MT RESPECTIVELY.

7. COMMENT: GUTIERREZ'S SELF-SUFFICIENCY GOAL OF 1979 APPEARS
UNREALISTIC ON THE BASIS OF PREVIOUS INFORMATION BUT THE GUAYMAS PROJ
ECT
IS OBVIOUSLY GAINING PRIORITY IN GOM PLANNING. FLORIDA
PHOSPHATE EXPORTERS WILL LOSE A GOOD MARKET, BUT U.S.
EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS SHOULD FIND GUAYMAS PROJECT MOST
INTERESTING WHEN MORE DETAILS ARE EVENTUALLY MADE
PUBLIC. END COMMENT.
THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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